



Guaranty Bank Tour de Houston

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the Guaranty Bank Tour de Houston?

The Guaranty Bank Tour de Houston is an urban bike ride that came as an idea to Mayor Bill White from State Senator Rodney Ellis. Senator Ellis participated in a five Burroughs ride in New York City and enjoyed seeing the historic areas of the city by bicycle. He felt that Houston could offer bicycle enthusiasts the same experience as well. Mayor White and Council Member Carol Alvarado loved the idea because it promotes a civic bonding experience for Houstonians, and also promotes clean air and a healthy lifestyle.

What is the Oxy Corporate Challenge and how do I register?

The Oxy Corporate Challenge is a friendly competition between bike teams which also encourages participation in the Guaranty Bank Tour de Houston. A company or organization registers their team as a participant in the challenge, and receives points for each rider who completes the ride (ex. 1 point for the 20-mile ride, 2 points for the 40-mile ride and 3 points for the 70-mile ride). The team with the most points at the end of the ride is crowned the Inaugural Guaranty Bank Tour de Houston Oxy Corporate Challenge Winners.

When is the last day to register?

The last day to register by **U.S. mail is Saturday, March 10, 2007.** *Your registration must be post-marked by March 10, 2007.* The last day to register **online is 11:59 p.m., Wednesday, March 14, 2007.** The cost to pre-register is \$25 for riders 13 years of age and over. For those riders 12 and under, the pre-registration fee is \$15.

Can we sign up on the day of the event?

Yes, but the registration fee increases to \$35 for all riders. Registration on the day of the event will be at Tranquillity Park, located directly across Walker Street from City Hall. Pre-registered riders who have not already picked up their rider packets will still need to visit the check-in area at Tranquillity Park to pick up their packet.

Can we pay with credit cards on the day of the event?

No. Only cash, checks or money orders can be accepted the day of the event. However, an ATM machine will be available on-site. Credit cards are accepted only for online registration.

What time should we be on site to participate in the ride?

Provided that you are already registered, you can arrive on site at 7:00 a.m. and proceed directly to your ride staging area. If you must register that morning, you should plan to arrive by 6:00 a.m.

Where will the start line for the ride be located?

Each route will begin and end on Walker Street between Bagby and Smith Streets. Each route will be staged in a different zone around City Hall, and the earlier you arrive to line-up, the closer to the front of the ride you will be placed. Please see the attached site map for your staging area. You will only be allowed to enter your staging area through one entrance.

What are the start times for each route?

The 70-mile route will begin at 7:30 a.m., the 40-mile route at 7:45 a.m. and the 20-mile route at 8:00 a.m.

Where is the free parking located for participants?

Free parking is located in the City of Houston C & H lots at 1500 Memorial Drive for vehicles with an overhead bike rack. Participants with trunk mounted bike racks can park in the Tranquillity Park underground parking garage located on Rusk Street at Bagby. A parking map can be accessed at www.tourdehouston.org, and will be included in your rider packet.

When and where is packet pick-up?

Packet pick-up will be at the following locations and times:

Sunday, March 11, 2007

11:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

- Sun & Ski – Galleria, 6100 Westheimer Rd., Houston, Texas 77057

Monday – Friday, March 12-16, 2007

9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

- City Hall Visitor's Center, 901 Bagby
- Guaranty Bank – Sugar Land, 14121 Southwest Freeway, Sugar Land, Texas 77478
- Guaranty Bank – Kingwood, 1859 Kingwood Drive, Kingwood, Texas 77339
- Guaranty Bank – Bellaire, 5319 Bellaire Blvd., Bellaire, Texas 77401
- Guaranty Bank – West U, 4555 Bissonnet, Bellaire, Texas 77401
- Guaranty Bank – Memorial, 14550 Memorial Drive, Houston, Texas 77079

What do we need to bring with us on the day of the ride?

Bring your bike and riding gear, and most importantly, ***you must wear a helmet if you are going to participate in the ride.*** If you happen to forget riding gear, Sun & Ski Sports will be on hand with a limited amount of items for purchase. If you are not pre-registered, you must also bring your \$35 registration fee in the form of cash, check or money order.

Is the Guaranty Bank Tour de Houston a closed course?

No, this is an open ride. Rest assured, however, that law enforcement officers will be present at all major intersections to assist you, but you must obey all rules of the road and remember that traffic will be all around you. Also, please remember that *this is a ride, not a race.*

What perks will be provided to the participants?

The first 2,500 participants will receive an official Guaranty Bank Tour de Houston t-shirt. Rider packets will also include promotional items from our participating sponsors, a rider route map and important information pertaining to the ride. Rest stops will have power drinks, water, fruit and snacks. After the ride, Michelob Ultra is hosting a party in Hermann Square that will include free beverages and entertainment from *The Slags*. A light lunch will also be provided following the ride. Also, register to win two round-trip airline tickets courtesy of Continental Airlines when you pick up your lunch. Simply register with the name plate from your rider number when you pick up your lunch!

Is this a BP MS150 Recommended Ride?

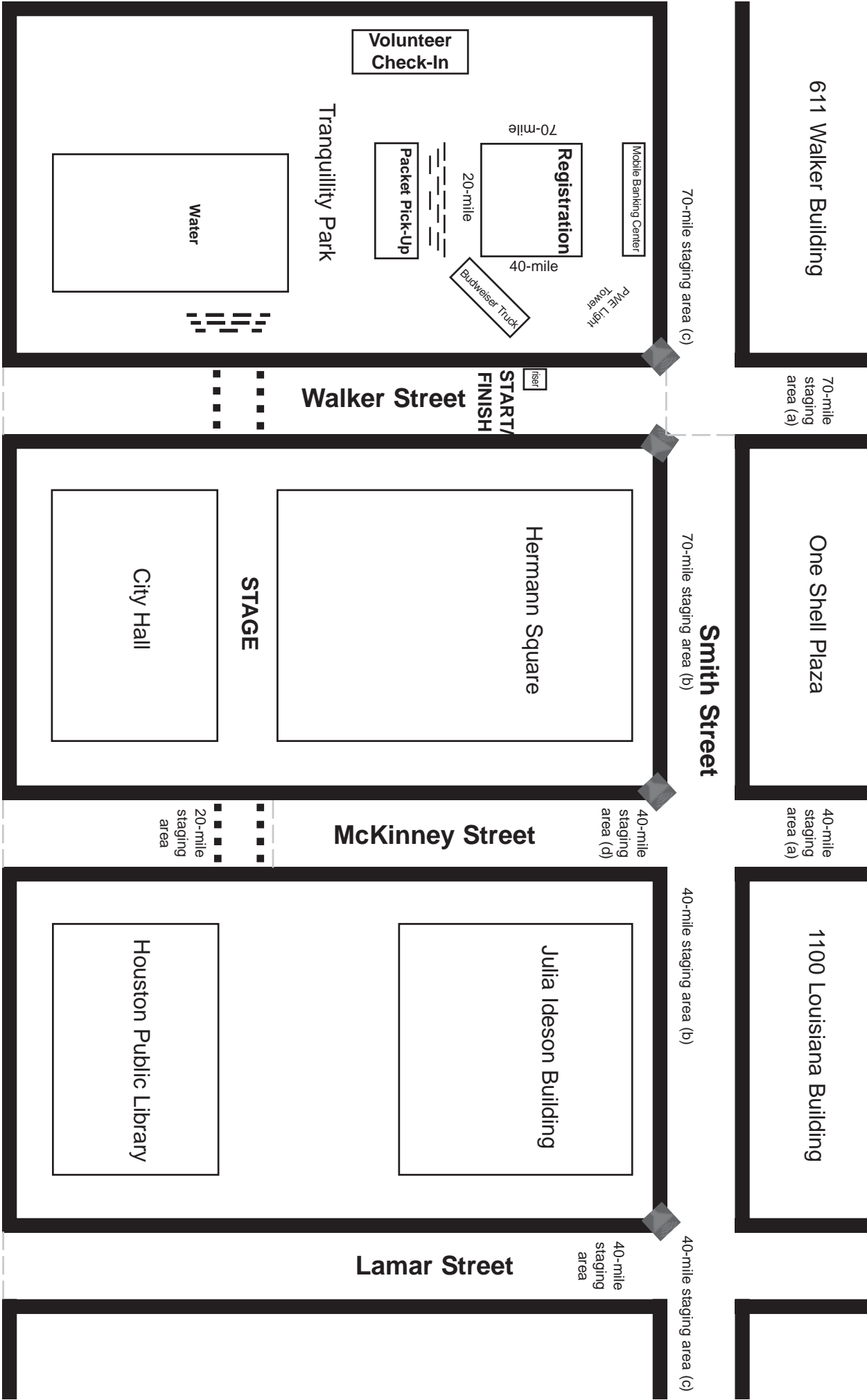
Yes! All BP MS150 requisites will be strictly adhered to on the Guaranty Bank Tour de Houston ride. Please remember that all riders MUST wear a helmet. This will be strictly enforced by the bike marshals.

Will I get to ride with the Mayor?

Houston Mayor Bill White, Council Member Carol Alvarado, and Texas State Senator Rodney Ellis are the co-chairs for the event and will all be in attendance and participating.

If we choose not to ride, can we help with the event?

Yes! Volunteers are always welcomed. Please visit the official website at www.tourdehouston.org and click on the volunteer link.



Hobby Center

City Hall Annex

Sam Houston Park